CHRISTMAS CHIMES!

How they add to the Christmas spirit! "Silent Night, Holy Night"—"Adeste Fideles" —pealing out on crisp air that is richly laden with the memories of other Christmas seasons —of that One memorable Christmas-tide centuries ago. Each Christmas sees an ever increasing number of churches enjoying the benefits that come through the installation of Golden Voiced Tower Chimes.

A CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEED

Not only at Christmas time but at every other season of the year these Modern Tower Chimes confer incalculable benefits through reaching the strays and non-attendants—those whom the Church most of all wants to reach but who shun every ordinary invitation. When Chimes are installed there is invariably a noticeable spiritual awakening in the community—new faces are seen in the congregation;

CULTIVATING GODLINESS.

Jn.15:1-2 I am the true vine and my Father is the husbandman: every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh it away; and every branch that beareth fruit he cleanseth it that it may bear more fruit.

INTRO. We ordinarily think of X as the vine and his disciples as the branches. And so it is. But in order to arrive at a fuller understanding of that relationship betweenthe Master and his disciples, ~~let~~ let us confine out thot to just the first two verses. Read.

I. The Process of Cultivation in Christ Himself.

A. Christ the true Vine and his Father the Husbandman.

1. The purpose of Chirst is to live the life of God by doing the will of God.

"I and my Father are one"
"My Father worketh and I work"
"My meat is to do the will of him who sent me."
"Even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love."

2. Everything in existance serves the purpose of its Creator.

The survival of the fittest are they which best serve that divine purpose.
Humanity on earth must fulfill her divine destiny. Likewise the individual.

3. Christ most fully of all, ~~perfectly~~ fulfilled served the divine plan of God so far as humanity and himself were concerned. He most fully realized his oneness with God and most fully lived accordingl

B. How did Christ realize and maintain His Oneness with God?

1. By eliminating the tendencies within himself that were contrary to the nature and will of God.

"Tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin."

He overcame, he cut off the wrong tendencies, the forces within himself that were headed in ways contrary to the will of God.

2. By cleansing and strengthening those tendencies within himself that were rightly directed, that were pleasing to God. Tendencies and influences that make for righteousness, for truth, for goodness, for self-sacrificing love and unselfish service.

3. But you say that this is not according to the text which states that it God is the husbandman who does the cutting off and the cleansing.
"Work out your own salvation, for it is God who worketh within you to will and do of his good ~~will~~ pleasure".

II. We become Branches on the Christ-Vine in the same manner by which Christ maintained himself as the true vine.

1. As Christ realized his oneness with God and God's creational divine purpose for all things, so we must realize our own oneness with God and God's purpose for ~~purposes~~ us.

2. As Christ did within himself so must we cut off from within ourselves all tendencies and forces that are contrary to the will of God.

3. And as Christ did within himself so must we within ourselves cleanse and strengthen all tendencies and forces that make for righteousness. Our desires and ambitions, thots and ideals, our customs and habits, our talents and abilities, our relationships and services- all, all- must be cleansed and fitted for godly living.

May I illustrate with another vine what the relationship is between the vine and the branches of the Christ Vine?

The Banyon tree- its branches extending to the g ground, each taking root and becoming a separate tree

III. By what power can we thus properly develop ourselves

God is the husbandman who in Christ cuts off the unfruitful branches and cleanses the bearing ones.

Only as God is within us can we work out our own salvation. Our Heavenly Fatherenables us to

accomplish our great life-purpose to cultivate and live His True Life.

My visit to the State Fair. Demonstration of highly cultivated cattle and horses and pigs and pigeons and chickens and rabbits and sheep.

If ~~the~~ Xns of America cultivated their Godly living as they do their livestock what ~~[illegible]~~ increased profits would be realized for God's Kingdom sake!

If all professing Xns of America would so cultivat themselves in Christian Living

The crime wave would subside

The divorce problem would settle itself

Great moral issues would not be hanging on the outcome of political elections.